

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 3546 - HB 3764

March 10, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Defines “threat” as a specific communication of an intent of an individual to commit suicide, whether written, oral, or electronic, which a reasonable person might consider to be credible. If a person has knowledge of direct evidence of a threat by another individual to commit suicide, the person has a duty to inform a law enforcement authority; a protective services staff member of the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Department of Children’s Services (DCS); an individual’s mental health provider or licensed health care provider; or an individual’s parent, guardian, or adult family member. Prohibits a person reporting a threat in good faith from being subject to monetary liability, a cause of action, or disciplinary action by a professional board for making disclosures necessary to reporting the threat as long as confidentiality requirements are not violated.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the provisions of the bill will not violate the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or substance abuse confidentiality statutes and rules and will not result in a significant impact to current policies and procedures.
- According to DHS, the provisions of the bill are consistent with departmental practice. Currently, Adult Protective Services staff refers any immediate mental health crisis to the local mental health crisis team or law enforcement. There will not be a significant fiscal impact to the Department.
- Currently, the Department of Children’s Services has a contract with Youth Villages to provide assistance with their mobile crisis program. Youth Villages’ mobile crisis responds to all suicidal threats by a child. The provisions of the bill will not significantly alter the current policies and procedures of the Department or its contracts.
- There may be an increase in the number of individuals with suicidal threats who are reported resulting in an increase in situations that local law enforcement and state departments and agencies have to investigate. Any cost can be accommodated within existing state and local resources.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/kml